

LITTLE BOOKS
FOR AFRICA



THE HARE AND THE LION

By Steere

LONDON: THE SHELDON PRESS

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THE HARE AND THE LION

Edward
AND OTHER TALES FROM BISHOP STEERE'S
"SWAHILI TALES" 1828-76

LONDON
THE SHELDON PRESS
NORTHUMBERLAND AVENUE, W.C.

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THE HARE AND THE LION

THE hare arose and went to look for food in the forest, and saw a very large calabash tree; and he looked up and saw a hive of honey, and he returned to the town to look for companions to come and eat with him.

And he passed by the *buku's* door, and the *buku* asked him in, and he sat down. And he said to him, "My father has died, and has left me a hive of honey, so let us go and eat it." And they went.

And he said to him, "Climb up." And they both climbed, and ate honey. And they had carried burning straw, and they fired the bees, and they flew away. And they put out the straw, and ate the honey.

All at once the lion came out under the calabash tree. And he looked up, and saw people eating, and asked, "Who are you?" And the hare said to the *buku*, "Hold your tongue, that old fellow is mad." And he asked again, "Who are you? won't you speak?" And the *buku* was afraid, and said, "We are here."

And the hare said to the *buku*, "Take me and put me among the straw, and tell the old lion, 'Get out of the way, that I may throw the straw down, and I am coming.'" And the lion got out of the way, and the *buku* threw it, and as it fell down the hare got out and ran away.

And the lion said, "Come down, then." And he came down. And he caught hold of him, and said, "Who were you with up there?" And he said, "I and the hare. Did you not see him here when I

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threw him down?" And he said, "I did not see him." And he ate the *buku*. And the lion set out and went seeking the hare, without finding him.

The third day after the hare went and called the tortoise, and said to him, "Let us go and eat some honey." And he asked, "Whose?" And he said, "My father's." And he said, "Let us go." And they arrived and climbed up with their burning straw, and they put fire to the bees, and they flew away, and they sat down and ate.

All at once the lion came out, and that lion was the owner of the honey. And he asked, "Who are you up there?" And the hare said to the tortoise, "Keep quiet." And the lion asked again. And the tortoise was afraid, and said, "I shall speak. You told me this honey was yours: what then, is it not yours? Does it belong to the lion?" And the lion asked again, "Who are you?" And he said, "We are here." And he said, "Come down, then." And he said, "We are coming." And the lion had sought for the hare many days, and he said, "I have got the hare today."

And the hare said to the tortoise, "Take me and put me among the straw, and tell the lion, 'Get out of the way, that I may throw down the straw;' and I will go. Wait for me below." And he said, "Very well." And the tortoise said to himself, "This fellow wants to run away, leaving me to be eaten by the lion: he shall eat him first." And he took him and put him among the straw. And he said to the lion, "The hare is coming."

And the lion caught him, and laid hold of him with his paw, and said, "What am I to do to you today?" And he said, "If you eat me my flesh is tough." And the lion asked him, "What am I to do with you then?" And he said, "Take hold of me by the tail and whirl me round, and then knock me

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on the ground, and so you shall eat me." And the lion was deceived, and whirled him round, and when he wanted to knock him, he slipped out of his paw, and ran off. And he lost the hare.

And he said to the tortoise, "You come down too." And he came down. And he said, "What am I to do with you?" And he said, "Put me in the mud, and rub me in this way till my shell comes off." And the lion took him, and went with him to the water, and rubbed him; and the tortoise got away, and the lion rubbed till his paws were raw. And he looked at his paws, and blood was coming from them; and he said, "The hare has done me today." And he went looking for him.

And he asked, "Where is the hare's house?" And they told him, "We do not know." And the hare had said to his wife, "Let us remove from this house." And they removed. And the lion went asking, and people told him, "That is his house on the top of the mountain." And the lion went, and when he arrived, the hare was not there. And he said, "I will hide myself inside the house, till when the hare comes with his wife, I will eat them both."

And the hare came, he and his wife. He had heard nothing, till on the road he saw the lion's feet, and he said to his wife, "You go back, the lion has passed this way looking for me." And she said, "I will not go back; I will follow you, my husband." And he said, "You have friends to go to; go back." And she went back. And the hare went on and followed the feet, and saw that they went into his house. And he said, "Oho, lion! you are inside."

And he went back cautiously, and went and stood at a distance, and said, "Salaam house! Salaam house! Salaam house!" And he heard no reply. And the hare said, "How is this? Every day as I pass this place, if I say, 'Salaam,' the house answers

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me ; but today perhaps there is someone inside it." The lion was deceived, and replied, "Salaam."

And he said to him, "Oho, lion ! you are inside ; you want to eat me, your son. And where did you hear of a house's talking ?" And the lion said, "Wait for me, that's all." And the hare ran off, and they chased one another till the lion was tired. And he said to the people, "The hare has beaten me ; there, I do not want him any more." And he went back.

THE WASHERMAN'S DONKEY

THERE was once a monkey which made friends with a shark. There was a great tree, of the sort called mkuyu, which grew near the deep water; half its branches were over the town and half over the sea. The monkey used to go every day and eat the kuyu fruit, and his friend the shark was there under the tree. He used to say, "Throw me some food, my friend"; and he used to throw to him, many days and many months.

Till one day, the shark said to the monkey, "You have done me many kindnesses, I should like for us to go to my home, that I may repay you for your kindness." The monkey answered him, "How shall I go? We don't go into the water, we beasts of the land." And he said, "I will carry you; not a drop of water shall get to you." And he said, "Let us go."

They went half the way. And the shark said, "You are my friend, I will tell you the truth." He said, "Tell me." He said, "There, at home, where we are going, our Sultan is very ill, and we have been told that the medicine for him is a monkey's heart." The monkey replied to him, "You did not do well not to tell me there on the spot." The shark said, "How so?"

The monkey considered and felt, "My life is gone already; now I will tell him a lie; perhaps that may serve me."

The shark asked him, "You have become silent; don't you speak?" He said, "I have nothing to say, because of your not telling me there on the spot, and I might have brought my heart." The shark asked "Have you your heart here?"

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"Don't you know about us? When we go out we leave our hearts in the trees, and we go about with only our bodies; but you won't believe me, you will tell me I am afraid; let us go on now to your home there, and kill me if you find my heart."

The shark believed it, and said to the monkey, "Let us go back now, and you get your heart." The monkey said, "I don't agree to that, but let us go to your place." And he said, "Let us go back first and take your heart, that we may go on."

The monkey considered, "I had better consent to him as far as to the tree; I know what to do when I have got there." They went and returned to the tree, and the monkey climbed up, and said, "Wait for me here, shark; I am going to get my heart, that we may be off."

He climbed into the tree and sat down quite still. The shark called him. He held his tongue. He called him again and said, "Let us be going." The monkey answered him, "Let us go where?" He said, "Let us go to our home." He said, "Are you mad?" The shark said, "How so?" The monkey said to him, "Do you take me for a washerman's donkey?" The shark asked the monkey, "What about a washerman's donkey?" He said, "That's what has neither heart nor ears." The shark said, "What is the story of the washerman's donkey? Tell me, my friend, that I may know what it means."

And he said, "A washerman had a donkey, and its owner was very fond of it. And the donkey ran away and went into the forest many days, till its owner the washerman forgot it. And it got very fat there in the forest."

"And the hare went by and saw the donkey, and foam coming from its mouth, and he said, 'This beast is fat.' And he went and told the lion. Now, the lion was recovering from an illness; he was very

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weakly. The hare said to him, 'I will bring you some meat tomorrow, that we may come and eat.' The lion said, 'Very good.'

"The hare arose and went into the forest, and found the donkey; now that donkey was a she. And he said to her, 'I am sent to come and ask you in marriage.' 'By whom?' she asked. And he said, 'By the lion.' And the donkey consented, and was very glad. And she said, 'Let us go, that will do.'

"And they went, till they arrived at the lion's. And the lion invited them in, and they sat down. The hare gave the lion a sign with his eyebrow, telling him, 'This is your meat, it has come with me already; I am going out.' And he said to the donkey, 'I am going on private business, converse here with your husband.'

"The lion sprang upon her, and they fought; the lion was kicked very hard, and he struck hard with his claws. And the donkey threw the lion down and ran away, and went off into the forest. The hare came and said, 'Hullo! lion, have you got it?' He said, 'I have not got it; she kicked me and went off, though I have made her many sore places, because I am not strong.' The hare said to the lion, 'Don't put yourself out of the way.'

"They stayed many days, till the donkey was well of her wounds, and the lion had got very strong. And the hare went to the lion and said, 'What do you think now, shall I bring you your meat?' He said, 'Bring it me, I will tear it into two pieces.'

"The hare went into the forest; the donkey welcomed the hare, and asked the news. He said, 'You are invited by your lover.' The donkey said, 'That day you took me he scratched me very much, and now I am afraid.' And he said, 'That is nothing, it is only the lion's way of conversing.' She said, 'Let us go, then.'

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"They went till they arrived. The lion, when he had only caught sight of her, sprang upon her and tore her in two pieces.

"When the hare came, he said to him, 'Take this meat and roast it; but myself I want nothing except the donkey's heart and ears.' The hare said, 'Thanks.' And he went and roasted the meat in a place apart, where the lion did not see him. And the hare took the heart and ears, and went on eating himself, till he had had enough. And the rest of the meat he put away.

"And the lion came and said, 'Bring me the heart and ears.' He said, 'Where are they?' The lion asked him, 'What does this mean?' He said, 'This was a washerman's donkey, did not you know?' And he said, 'What about there being no heart and ears?' He said, 'You lion, a grown-up person, and is it not clear to you? If this animal had had heart and ears, would it have come here a second time? For the first time it came, it saw it would be killed, and ran away; and yet it came again the second time. Now, if it had any heart, would it have come?' The lion said, 'There is truth in what you say.'"

So the monkey said to the shark, "And you want to make a washerman's donkey of me. Take your way, and be off home; you are not going to get me again, and our friendship is ended. Good-bye."

THE KITES AND THE CROWS

THE king of the crows arose and sent a letter to the king of the kites, and said to him, "I want you to be my soldier." And he said, "I do not consent." And he said, "If you do not consent, you and I will fight." And he said, "Let us fight; if you beat me, I will obey you; if I beat you, you will obey me."

And they fought, and the crows were beaten. And an old one arose and said, "Let us flee." And they fled from their town, and went to another town. And when the kites came and saw no one, they lived in the town of the crows.

Till one day the crows took counsel. And an old one arose, and said, "Pluck off my feathers, and throw me into the town of the kites." And they plucked him, and threw him in.

And when the kites passed and saw him, they said to him, "What are you doing here in our town?" And he said, "My companions have beaten me, and turned me out of the town, because I told them to obey the kite."

And they took him and went with him to their king, and said to him, "We have picked up this crow; ask him, he will tell his business."

And the king asked him, and he said, "My companions have beaten me, and turned me out of the town, because I told them truly, 'Obey the kite, he is our king,' and they beat me." And the king of the kites said, "Stay here."

And he stayed many days. Till one day they went to church, and they took him, and they prayed together; and when they went out, they asked him,

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“We and you, which worships God best?” And he said, “You do.”

And he stayed, and they loved him much. Till when their feast-day drew near, he went out in the night, and went and told his companions, “Tomorrow they will all go to church: come outside the door of the church and put fire to it.” And they went out, and went to look for firewood, and others went and fetched fire.

So in the morning they went to church, without there remaining a single person in the town, except that old crow. And they said to him, “Why are you not going to church today?” And he said, “My stomach aches badly.” And they said to him, “Very well.” And he went and called his companions. And he said to them, “They have all gone into the church.”

And they went and put firewood at the door of the church, and others set it on fire. And the fire blazed up. And they saw the smoke come into the church, and they fled to the windows, and others died, very many, and the king and all died. And the crows took the town.

And the kites who remained have fled from the crows to this day.

THE SPIRIT WHO WAS CHEATED BY THE SULTAN'S SON

THERE was a Sultan who longed for a son for many years without getting one. And he had much property and many towns. And he felt, "When I die, all these possessions will be lost, by reason of my having no son."

And a demon came and made himself like a man, and said to the Sultan, "If I give you a medicine, and you get a son, what will you give me?" And he said, "I will give you half my property." And he said, "I shall not accept it." And he said, "I will give you half my towns." And he said, "I am not satisfied." And he said, "What do you want then?" And he said, "If you get two children, give me one, and take one yourself." And he said, "I have consented."

And he brought him a medicine, and said to him, "Give it to your wife and let her eat it." And he gave it to her, and she ate it and became pregnant, and bore a first child, a boy, and a second, a boy, and yet more a third, a boy.

And his friend who gave him the medicine came and said to him, "Come, let us divide them." And he said, "Not yet; these children have not yet learnt to read." And he said, "Give them to me that I may teach them." And he said, "Take them." And he went to his home with them. And his home was a large house, and everything was in it.

And he taught them until they knew all learning, and they made letters, and then he took them to their father. And one of those lads was very clever.

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And he said to their father, "Come, let us divide the children today." And he said, "You divide them." And he divided them, and took two and put them separate, and he took one and put him separate, and said, "Choose, Sultan." And the Sultan took the two, and he took the one, and went his way.

And he went home, and gave him all the keys, and said, "Open whatever you like." And the lad remained in the house, and that, his father, going out, went travelling for a month, when he returned.

Well, the youth remained, till one day he took a key and went and unlocked a room. And he saw molten gold, and put in his finger, and it clung to it; and when he had wiped it, it did not come off, and he tied on a rag. And his father came and asked him, "What is the matter with your finger?" And he said, "I have cut myself." And he remained, till the next day his father went out, and went on his way travelling.

And the boy took all the keys, and went and opened the first room, and saw goats' bones; and he opened the second, and saw sheep's bones; and he opened a third, and saw those of oxen; and he opened the fourth, and saw those of donkeys; and he opened the fifth, and saw those of horses; and he opened the sixth, and saw skulls of men; and he opened the seventh, and saw a living horse.

And it said, "Oh, you son of Adam, where do you come from?" And he said, "As for me, this is my father." And it said, "His business is to eat people, and donkeys, and horses, and oxen, and goats, and all things; and now you and I are left."

And he said, "What are we to do?" And it said, "Come and unfasten me." And he unfastened it. And it said, "Now open the treasure chamber, and I will swallow everything; and when your father comes and goes to invite people to come and eat us,

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when he comes, he will say to you, 'Let us go for firewood,' tell him, 'I don't understand such work;' and he will go by himself. And when he comes with it he will put on a great cauldron, and he will say to you, 'Make up the fire.' Tell him, 'I cannot;' he will go himself to make up the fire. He will bring much ghee and put it into the cauldron, till when it gets hot, he will tie up a swing and say to you, 'Get up and play.' Tell him, 'I do not know how to play at this; you get up yourself first, that I may look at you, and I may get to do as you do;' and when he gets up to show you, push him into the cauldron of hot ghee, and come away quickly, and I will come and wait for you under the tree there in the road."

And the horse ran away, and left the boy by himself. So when his father came, he said to him, "Tomorrow let us go for firewood." And he said, "I don't understand that work." And he went himself by himself, and brought much firewood. And he had already told people, "Tomorrow I have a feast, come." And he came and took out a cauldron and put it on, and said to him, "Put on the firewood;" and he said, "I do not know how." And he said to him, "And bring the ghee." And he said, "I cannot carry it, I have no strength." And he went himself, and carried it, and put it into the cauldron, and lighted the fire, and he said to him, "Make it up;" and he said, "I do not know how to make up a fire."

And he said, "Have you seen our country game?" And he said, "Not yet." And the ghee had got very hot. And he tied up a swing, and said to him, "Get up here, that I may show you." And he said, "Get up yourself first, and play, that when I see you, father, I may get to play." And he got up, and played. And he took hold of him and pushed him into the cauldron, and he boiled with the ghee and died.

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And the boy ran away and went till he saw the horse under the tree, and it came running. And the horse came and took him up and put him on its back, and said, "Now let us be off." And they went away.

Those companions there of his came, and looked for him, and did not see him. And they were getting very hungry, and they looked into the cauldron, and saw the food was done, and they said, "Let us eat this food;" and they took it off and dished it up and ate. And when they had done they looked for him and did not find him. And they went into the house and took out all the food and all the rice; and they came and cooked and ate the second day also, and they saw he was not yet come, and they went away home.

And the boy, he and his horse, went till far off there were other towns, and they stopped at the end of a town. And he said, "Here let us stay;" and they stayed and ate food. And he said, "Here let us build a house;" and they built a large house and everything within it, and they put in it horses, and asses, and oxen, and goats, and slaves, and they remained.

Till one day the Sultan heard of it, and went and sent people, and they went to look whether the news was true that there was a large house; and the people said, "It is true, Sultan, there is a large house."

And the Sultan sent his people to see who it was. And he told them, "I am a person like other people." And they said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said, "I come from our town, and am come travelling." And they went and told the King, "He is a foreigner, and has come travelling." And he said, "Let someone go tomorrow and tell him, 'The Sultan will come to see you.'" And a man went and told him. And he said, "Thanks, and let him come."

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And he ordered much food to be got ready. So in the morning the King came with his people, and arrived at the house. And he invited him in, and he passed inside, and the Sultan saw that the house was large and many slaves in it. And he sat down and they conversed. And he asked him, "Why do you not come and walk in the town?" And he said, "I am a stranger, I must get people to take me and bring me into the town." And he said, "Let us go and take a walk."

And the King loved him much, and they dwelt there many days. And the King asked him, "Would you like to marry a wife?" And he said, "I should." And he said, "I will marry you to my daughter." And the Sultan made a great wedding, and married them.

And he dwelt with his wife, and they had one child; and they dwelt until the end, he and his wife, and his one child, and his horse, and he loved it like his own soul.

THE APE, THE LION, AND THE SNAKE

IN old times there was a town, and there was a woman, and she was pregnant, and her husband died. When her husband was dead she waited till at last she bore a son. And her husband's work had been to set traps, and he caught game, and sold food.

After his death the woman was asked by her son, "Mother, we are dying of hunger." And the son spoke to her and asked his mother, "Mother, what work did father do to get food?" And she said, "Your father was a man who set traps, and so got food." "Then I too will set traps, that I may get game, and we may sell it, and get food."

And he went on all day, and cut branches of trees. The second day he went on all day, and cut traps. The third day he went on all day, and twisted rope. The fourth day he went on all day, and set up the traps. The fifth day he went on all day, and set the traps. The sixth day he went to try the traps, and took out game and killed it, and took the flesh into the town, and it was sold for corn. And their houses were full of food, and they got ease in their circumstances.

At last he went and tried the traps, and got nothing. The first day when he went to the traps an ape was taken. And he wanted to kill it. And the ape said, "You son of Adam, do not kill me. Come and take me out of the trap; save me from rain, that I may come and save you from sun." When he had finished taking out the ape, it said, "I give you my word that no son of Adam is good; do not do good

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to him ; if you do, tomorrow he will come and do you harm."

Then, the second day, he came trying the traps, and a snake was taken. And he ran to call people from the town. And the snake said, "Come back, son of Adam, do not run to the town, do not go and call people to me to come and kill me. Help me out of this trap, and tomorrow I will come and help you ; but a son of Adam does good to no one."

The third day he went to try the traps, and reached them, and a lion was caught by a trap. The man who owned the trap saw an old lion caught in the trap, and ran to go and call people to come and kill it. And the lion said, "No ; save me in rain, and I will come and save you in sun." But when he had finished letting it out of the trap, the lion said to him, "Son of Adam, you have helped me, you have done good to me ; but I declare to you my word, a son of Adam does not do good." Another day a man was taken in the trap, and the owner of the trap let him loose.

At last that youth's food was finished in all the houses, and they were taken with hunger, he and his mother. And he said to his mother, "Mother, make me seven cakes." When she had finished making the seven cakes, he took hold of his bow, and went into the forest to hunt game. And he lost himself, and ate six cakes, and when they were done one remained.

When that one remained he went, till in the forest was a great forest and a great wilderness, and he went on and met with that ape. The man was asked the news by the ape. And he asked him, "You son of Adam, where are you going ?" And he said, "I am lost." And it said, "Rest your heart here, that I may repay you here today the good you did me the other day, and took me out of the trap ; so be still and wait for me here."

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And the ape went to people's plantations, and went and stole ripe papaws, and stole ripe bananas, and carried them to the man, and said to him, "Take this food, bananas and papaws," and it gave them to the man. And it said, "What do you want? do you want water?" And it went and stole a calabash of water and gave to the man, and he drank; and when he had finished drinking they took leave of one another. And they said, "Good-bye; good-bye till we meet again." And he went his way.

When he arrived further on, he went on and met with the lion. When he met with it, the lion asked him, "Where do you come from, son of Adam?" The man answered the lion, "I am lost." The lion said to him, "Sit down here, that I may repay you that kindness of yours of the other day, when you helped me. Let me help you; sit here." And the man stayed still, and waited for the lion. The lion went and caught game and brought it to the man, and said, "You are lost, eat this food; let me come and repay you your goodness of the other day." And it gave him meat, and fire to roast the meat. And he roasted the meat and ate it. When he had eaten the meat he took courage, and the man went his way.

When the man had gone away he went on and came out upon a plantation, where was an exceedingly old woman. And the man came out there, and she said to him, "There in our town there is a man who has fallen sick; if you can prepare medicine, we want you to prepare medicine." And he said, "I do not know how to prepare medicine."

When he reached the road he saw a pail, and a well beside it. He says, "Let me go and drink water there from the well." And he reached the well and looked on all sides of the pail. And he said, "Let me peep into this well of water, that I

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may get water to drink." And when he peeped into the well he saw a great snake. And it said, "Son of Adam, wait a bit for me." And the snake came out of the well and said, "Son of Adam, where are you going? Do you remember me?" And he said, "I do not know you." And it said, "It was I that you took out of your trap, and I said to you, 'Take me out of rain, and I will take you out of sun.' And you are a stranger where are you going. But bring here your scrip, that I may put in for you things that will be of use to you there where you are going." And he gave it the scrip, and it put in for him chains of gold and chains of silver. And it said, "Take the scrip and spend from it freely."

When he reached the town, that town whither he was going, first of all he met the man who had been taken in the trap. And he took from him the scrip and went with him to his house. And when his wife saw the stranger she cooked porridge, and said, "I am cooking for our guest."

The man whom he had taken out of the trap went to the Sultan in the town, and told the Sultan "That stranger who has come to my house there, do not think him a son of Adam. He is a snake, and lives in a well; and think him a snake, or if he is not a snake, it is he who turns himself into a snake. So then, Sultan, let a man go and take him and his scrip. I have seen, too, chains of gold and chains of silver."

And a man went to take that stranger, and he came with him and his scrip. And the scrip was opened, and many people testified to things of the Sultan's child and things of the vizir's children, and (of) people in the town. At last his hands were tied behind him with a rope.

And that great snake came out of the well, and came to the town. And he went round the town,

THE APE, THE LION, AND THE SNAKE

and stopped where the man was. And the people were troubled in the town, so that they spoke to the man and said to him, "Say to this snake, 'Go away.'" And the snake came. And the people untied the man's hands that had been tied behind him. And the snake went back to its well, and said, "You son of Adam, when you are done wrong to, give me a call, and I will come out to you at once."

And he got much honour in the country. And he was asked, "Why should this man be your host, and do you wrong?" And he said, "Of the snake, and the lion, and the ape, they told me that no son of Adam is done good to; if you do a son of Adam good he does you wrong, and this is true and no lie. That man for the good I did him has done me harm; that sentence of the snake and the lion and the ape is true, and is no lie."

And the Sultan asked what it meant, and he explained to him how things had gone. And the Sultan said, "He deserves to be put in a sleeping mat, and drowned in the sea, for he knows no good. He was done good to and has repaid evil."

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THERE was a man and his wife, and they prayed to God to get a child ; and they got first a son and next a daughter. And their father's employment was to cut up firewood. And they remained till the children were grown up. And their father was seized by disease. And he called his children, and asked them, " Will you have blessing or property ?" And the son said, " I will have property." And the daughter said, " I will have blessing." And her father gave her much blessing. And her father died.

And they kept the mourning, and when they arose their mother fell sick ; and she called her children and said to them, " Will you have blessing or property ?" And the son said, " I will have property." And the daughter said, " I will have blessing." And her mother gave her blessing. And their mother died.

And they kept their mourning, and when they arose the seventh day was come. And the son went and told the woman, his sister, " Put out all my father's and mother's things." And the woman put them out without his leaving her anything. And he took them all away.

And people said to him, " Will you not leave even any little thing for this your sister ?" And he said, " I shall not. I asked for the property, and she for a blessing." And he left her a cooking pot and a mortar for cleaning corn : he did not leave her even a little food.

Her neighbours used to come and borrow the mortar, and clean their corn, and then they gave her a little grain, and she cooked and ate it. And others

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used to come and borrow her cooking pots, and cook with them, and then they gave her too a little food. And this was every day her employment.

And she searched about in her father and mother's house without finding anything except a pumpkin seed. And she took it and went and planted it under the well. And a plant sprung up and bore many pumpkins.

Her brother had no news of her, and he asked people, "Where does my sister get food?" And they told him, "People borrow her mortar, and they clean their corn, and give her too a little food; and people borrow her cooking pots, and cook with them, and give her too a little food."

And her brother arose and went and robbed her of the mortar and cooking pots. And then she awoke in the morning and sought for food, and could not get it. And she stayed till nine o'clock, and said, "I will go and look at my pumpkin, whether it has grown." And she went, and saw that many pumpkins had come. And she was comforted.

And she gathered the pumpkins, and went and sold them, and got food. And this was her employment every day, to gather and go and sell. And when the third day came, everyone who ate those pumpkins found them exceedingly sweet. And everybody used to take grain and go to her place and buy. And many days passed, and she got property.

Her brother's wife heard that news, and sent her slave with grain to go and buy a pumpkin. And she said, "They are finished." And when she knew it was her brother's wife's slave, she told him, "Take this one, and take back your grain." And she went and cooked it, and found it very sweet. The next day she sent someone again. And she said, "There are none at all today." And he went and told his mistress, and she was exceedingly vexed.

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When her husband came and asked her, "What is the matter with you, my wife?" She told him, "I sent some one to your sister with my grain, to go and ask for pumpkins. She did not send them, and told me, 'There are none'; and other people all buy of her." And he said to his wife, "Let us sleep till tomorrow. I will go and pull up her pumpkin plant."

When the morning dawned, he went to his sister and said to her, "When my wife sent grain, you refused to sell her a pumpkin." And she said, "They are finished; the day before yesterday she sent some one, and I gave to him for nothing." And he said, "Why are you selling to other people?" And she said, "They are finished, there are no more, they are not yet come." And her brother said to her, "I shall go and cut up your pumpkin." And she said, "You dare not, unless indeed you cut my hand off first; then you may cut up the pumpkin." And her brother took hold of her right hand and cut it off, and went and cut up her pumpkin plant, every bit of it.

The woman set on hot water, and put in her arm, and put medicine also, and bound on a cloth.

And he took away from her everything, and put her out of the house.

And his sister wandered about in the forest, and this her brother sold the house, and gathered much property, and remained spending it.

And she wandered in the forest, till on the seventh day she came out upon another town. And she climbed up into a great tree, and ate the fruit of the tree, and in the morning she slept there in the tree. On the next day the son of the King came out shooting birds, he and his people. About twelve o'clock he was tired, and said, "I will go there by the tree, that I may rest, and you shoot birds." And he sat under the tree, he and his slave.

And the young woman cried till her tears fell upon

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the King's son below. And he said to his slave, "Look outside; is it not raining?" And he said, "It is not, master." And he said, "Then climb up into the tree, and look what bird is casting its droppings upon me." And his slave climbed up, and he saw an exceedingly beautiful woman crying, and without saying a word, he got down. And he told his master, "There is a most beautiful young woman. I did not venture to say a word to her." And his master asked him, "Why?" And he said, "I found her crying; perhaps you should go yourself." And his master climbed up, and went and saw her, and said to her, "What is the matter with you, my mistress? Are you a person or a spirit?" And she said, "I am a person." And he said, "What are you crying about?" And she said, "I am thinking of things; I am a person as you are."

And he said, "Come down and let us go to our home." And she said to him, "Where is your home?" And he said, "With my father and mother: I am a king's son." And she said, "What did you come to do here?" And he said, "I come to shoot birds, month by month; this is our employment. I came with my companions." And she said, "I do not like to be seen by anybody." And he said, "We shall not be seen by any one." And she came down.

And he sent his slave, "Go into the town quickly, and bring me a *masheela*. And his slave went at once and returned with a *masheela* and four people, and they carried him. And he put the woman into it, and told his slave, "Fire a gun, that all the company may know." And he fired a gun, and his companions came, and they said to him, "What is the matter with you, son of the King?" And he said, "I am cold, and I want to go my way into the town." And they carried the game they had got, and went away.

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And the King's son got into the *masheela*, he and that young woman. And his companions knew nothing of it.

And they went to their city, and reached his house. And he said to a man, "Go and tell my mother and father, I have fever today, I want gruel quickly; let them send it to me." And his mother and father were troubled, and gruel was cooked for him, and sent to him.

And his father went with his vizirs and went to see him. And at night his mother went with her people to see him.

The next day he went out, and went and told his mother and father, "I have picked up a young woman; I want you to marry me to her, but she has lost one hand?" And they said, "Why?" And he said, "I wish it just as it is." And the Sultan loved his only son much, and he made a wedding and married him.

And the people heard in the town, "The Sultan's son has married a young woman; she has lost one hand."

And they remained until his wife became pregnant, and bore a son, and his parents rejoiced exceedingly.

And the Sultan's son went on a journey, and went to travel about in the towns of his father.

There behind her brother came out; he had nothing to spend, and was going begging. Till one day he heard people conversing, "The Sultan's son has married a woman who has lost one hand." And her brother asked, "Where did he get the girl, this child of the Sultan?" And they told him, "He picked her up in the forest." And he knew she was his sister.

And he went to the King. And he went and said, "Your child has married a woman who has lost a

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hand. She was put out of their town because she was a witch; every husband who marries her, she kills."

And the King went and told his wife, and they said, "What plan can we act on?" And they loved much their only child, and they said, "Let us put her out of the town." And her brother said to them, "Kill her, for there at home she had her hand cut off, and here kill her." And they said, "We cannot kill her, we will put her out of the town." And they went and put her out of the town, her and her son. And she was comforted.

And she went out, and carried a little basket, and went her way into the forest; she knew not where she was going or whence she came. And she sat down, and showed her child, and casting her eyes, she saw a snake come fast towards her, and she said, "To-day I am dead."

And the snake said to her, "Child of Adam, open your basket that I may go in. Save me from sun, and I will save you from rain." And she opened the basket, and it went in, and she covered it. And she looked and saw another snake coming fast, and it said to her, "Has not my companion passed?" And she said, "It is going." And it passed quickly.

The snake which was in the basket said to her, "Uncover me." And she uncovered it, and it was comforted, and said to that child of Adam, "Where are you going?" And she said, "I know not where I am going; I am wandering in the wood." And the snake said to her, "Follow me, and let us go home." And they went together till on the road they saw a great lake. And the snake said to her, "Child of Adam, let us sit and rest, the sun is fierce; go and bathe in the lake with your child." And she carried her boy, and went to wash him, and he fell in, and was lost in the lake. And it asked her, "What is the

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matter with you there, child of Adam?" And she said, "My child is lost in the water." And it said, "Look for him well." And she sought for him for a whole hour without finding him. And it said, "Put in the other hand." And she said, "You, snake, are making game of me." And it asked, "How?" And she said, "I have put in this sound one, and I have not found him; what is the use of this spoilt one?" And the snake said to her, "Only you put in both." And the child of Adam put them in, and went and found her son and laid hold of him, and drew out her hand sound again. And it said, "Have you found him?" And she said, "I have found him, and have got my hand sound again." And she rejoiced much.

And the snake said, "Now let us go away to my elders, and let me repay your kindness." And she said, "This is enough, getting my hand." And it said, "Not yet; let us go to my elders." And they went till they arrived, and they rejoiced much, and loved that young woman. And she remained, eating and drinking many days.

And her husband returned from his journey. And his elders had caused two tombs to be made, one of his wife and one of his child. And her brother had become a great man with the King.

And her husband, the King's son, came. And he asked, "Where is my wife?" And they said to him, "She is dead." "And where is my child?" And they answered him, "He is dead." And he asked, "Where are their graves?" And they took him to go and see them. And when he saw them he wept much. And he made a mourning. And he was comforted.

Many days had passed. And the young woman in the forest said to her friend the snake, "I want to go away home." And it said, "Take leave of my

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mother and father. When they give you leave to go, if they give you a present, accept only the father's ring and the mother's casket."

And she went and took leave of them, and they gave her much wealth, and she refused and said, "I, one person, how shall I carry this wealth?" And they said, "What will you have?" And she said, "You, father, I want your ring; and you, mother, I want your casket." And they were very sorry, and asked her, "Who told you about this?" And she said, "I know it myself." And they said, "Not so: it is this your brother who told you."

And he took the ring and gave her, and said to her, "I give you this ring. If you want food, if you want clothes, if you want a house for sleeping, tell the ring: it will produce it for you by the blessing of God and of me your father." And her mother gave her the casket, and told her such and such things. And they gave her their blessing.

And she went out and went away, till there by the town of her husband, without reaching her husband's house. When she reached the outskirts, she told the ring, "I want you to produce for me a great house." And it produced a house, and the furniture of the house and slaves. And she stayed, she and her son. And her son had become a great lad.

And the King got news of there being a large house on the outskirts, and he sent people to go and look, and they answered him, "It is true." And the Sultan arose with his vizirs and his son.

And they went and drew near, and the woman looked through a telescope and saw her husband, and her husband's father, and many people, and her brother among them. And she told the people, "Prepare food quickly." And they prepared, and laid the table. And they arrived and were invited in, and went inside, and they asked her the news.

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And she said, "Good." And she said to them, "Eat of the food. I come from a distance; when you have done with the food let me give you my news."

And they ate the food, till when they had finished she told them, from the beginning when she was born, she and her brother, till all were finished, as they had been. And the King's son went to embrace his wife, and they wept much, and all who were there wept, and they knew her brother was not good.

And the King asked her, "What shall we do to your brother?" And she said, "Only put him out of the town." And she dwelt with her husband till the end in joy.

THE LIONESS AND THE ANTELOPE

IN old times there was a lioness, and she was with young, and bore a cub. And when she had bore her cub, she was seized with hunger seven days. And she said, "I will go outside and look for food." And when she went outside she saw an antelope feeding. And she crept up to it. And the antelope turned its head and saw the lioness, and said to her, "Welcome, cousin!" And the lioness was ashamed, so that she did not seize it; it had turned her by making her its cousin.

